

## STOPPING INTERFERENCE BY POLITICAL GOVTS Set up independent commission for local body affairs

High-powered body report also for dissolution of Gram Sarkar

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The caretaker government should set up an independent commission for local government bodies to check interference from the political governments in their affairs, says a report by a high-powered committee to be submitted shortly.

The report also recommends dissolving the Gram Sarkar system formally and introducing a three-tier local government system comprising zila, upazila and union parishads. The zila and upazila parishads should be formed through holding polls long overdue for making these local government bodies effective as well for ensuring

good governance at grass roots level, sources said quoting the draft report. The report also suggests the government make the commission permanent.

The report also recommends forming zila and upazila parishads through holding polls long overdue for making the local government

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Tensed parents and guardians wait outside the examination halls at DU arts faculty as thousands vie for admission to public medical colleges yesterday. (Story on page 3)

## Public outrage over Jamaat statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life yesterday blasted Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for his Thursday's comments, which they said went against the Liberation War.

Mojaheed on Thursday told the media that Jamaat did not work against the Liberation War in 1971

and there are no war criminals in the country.

A cross section of people said the comments of Mojaheed on Thursday were arrogant and deceitful. They yesterday demanded trial of the Jamaat leaders who are known collaborators of the genocide in 1971.

Meanwhile, a number of organisations and Dhaka

University teachers also protested and condemned Mojaheed's remarks.

Elderly people in the city, whom The Daily Star correspondents talked to, reacted sharply over the comments. "Millions of elderly people who witnessed the Liberation War are still alive in the country. We witnessed the role of

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## History speaks up

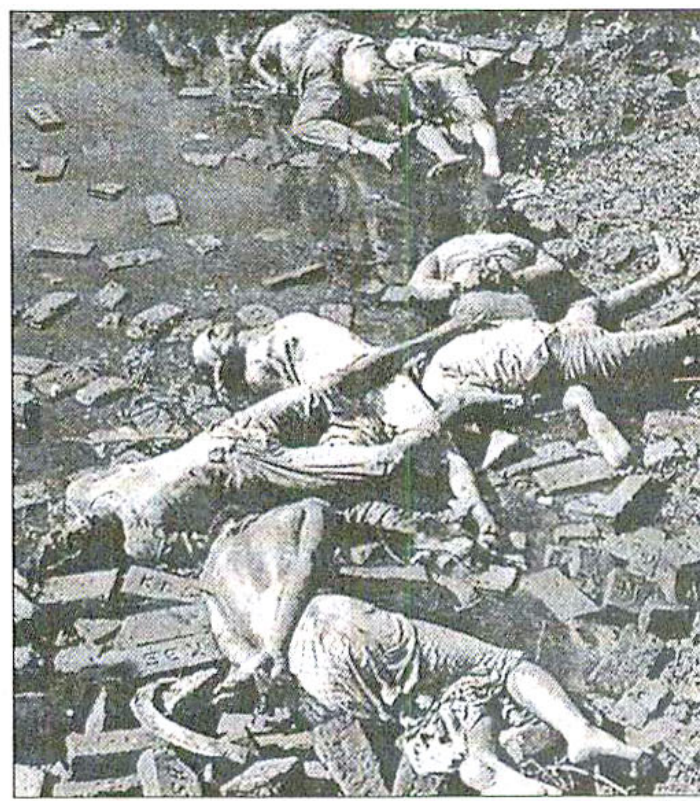
JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and  
EMRAN HOSSAIN

After 36 years of independence Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh now denies its anti-liberation role when history speaks volumes about how its leaders and workers collaborated with the occupying Pakistan forces in mass killings, rape, looting and numerous other atrocities.

The remarks that Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed made to the press after the electoral talks with the Election Commission Thursday has left people across the country stunned.

Former chief justice and chairman of the Law Commission Mostafa Kamal yesterday told The Daily Star, "Now it is being said that no war criminal exists in the country. Maybe after some time it would be said that the Liberation War never took place. All this will mean

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Pak forces and their collaborators killed top intellectuals at the fag end of Liberation War. This picture was taken from Rayer Bazar area on Dec 17, 1971.

## What Jamaat leaders said in '71

HASAN JAHD TUSHER and  
ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

Jamaat-e-Islami was directly involved in war crimes in 1971 as part of the Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams groups and peace committees, inciting killings of Liberation War supporters and collaborating with the Pakistani occupation force, according to speeches and writings in 1971 by the then Jamaat

leadership and the party's current amir and secretary general.

In 1971, Golam Azam was the Jamaat amir while Motiur Rahman Nizami, the present amir, was the president of Islami Chhatra Shanga and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, the present Jamaat secretary general, led its Dhaka unit.

Their speeches and writings published in Jamaat's mouthpiece,

the daily Sangram, during the Liberation War in 1971 chronicle their direct involvement in supporting the Pakistani occupation force, their leadership in collaborating with the army, and their activities to incite and encourage annihilation of the liberation forces.

On Thursday, Mojaheed denied Jamaat's involvement in war

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## Try proven collaborators, demand war heroes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Top Liberation War heroes said yesterday a number of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders are proven collaborators in the genocide in 1971, and demanded they be brought to justice immediately.

Blasting Jamaat for its anti-liberation role, they said this party is now denying established historical truth, and demanded banning it.

The renowned freedom fighters were talking to The Daily Star in reaction to Jamaat Secretary

General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed's claim that they did not work against the Liberation War and that there are no anti-liberation forces and war criminals in the country.

The war heroes include the deputy chief of liberation forces and sector commanders in the Liberation War.

Maj Gen (ret'd) AKM Shafiullah, who was commander of sector-11, said, "There is enough evidence to prove that they (Jamaat) were against the Liberation War."

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File photos show Golam Azam and Nurul Amin hold talks with Gen Tikka Khan in 1971 to form peace committee (top), Golam Azam faces public wrath in city 1981 (middle) and Maulana Mannan along with madrasa teachers meets Gen Niazi in 1971.

## MUSHROOMING HOTEL TRADE ON ST MARTIN'S Flora, fauna of lone coral island under threat

PINAKI ROY

The hotels and restaurants that sprang up in the recent past on St Martin's Island, one of the ecologically critical areas (ECA) in the country, have been operating without any official approval.

According to the law, building of any structure and carrying out any activity that might pollute the environment or harm the flora and fauna in an ECA are strictly prohibited.

However, the unauthorised structures mushroomed on St Martin's over the years with law enforcers and government agencies turning a blind eye to the

violation.

Concerned about the preservation of biodiversity of the island, the present government is planning to introduce a guideline for building environment-friendly structures on the island, said sources.

A total of 33 privately owned hotels and restaurants are currently doing business on St Martin's -- a 3.34-square-kilometre island with only 5,000 inhabitants. Most of these businesses opened up in last eight years -- soon after the government decided to establish a marine park on the country's lone coral island for the conservation of marine bio-diversity.

This year, on September 29, director of Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong Division, in a letter said the DoE had never given approval to any hotel or restaurant to operate on the island.

Considering its rich natural biodiversity, the government in a gazette notification declared Saint Martin's an ecologically critical area on April 19, 1999. As a first step to establishing a marine park there, on July 29, the government issued another gazette notification prohibiting activities destructive to the flora and fauna of the island. Extraction of coral, seashell and

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A group of holidaymakers on St Martin's Island.

## My proposal doesn't exclude Khaleda Says Mannan Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Changing his earlier stance, expelled BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said reforms and unity of the party are needed to win the next election, but everything will be done keeping Khaleda Zia in the process.

"In my reform proposal there is nothing about excluding the chiefs of two major political parties. I have only suggested a change in the system," he said, adding that his proposal does not contain anything about excluding Khaleda Zia and he did not present the proposal to remove any individual.

"Khaleda Zia is still our chair-

person and we will hold the party council jointly," Bhuiyan said.

Bhuiyan held a meeting with about 20 former lawmakers at his Gulshan residence yesterday, a day after BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar held such a meeting with around 40 former lawmakers.

The expelled BNP leader said he is planning to hold a formal meeting in the first week of next month and expects that more than 100 former lawmakers will attend the meeting.

At a press briefing after the meeting with former lawmakers, Bhuiyan, who unveiled a 15-point

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## Yaba peddlers adopt new tactics to sell the deadly pills

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

In the face of Rapid Action Battalion's (Rab) recent clamp-down, most of the Yaba dealers have opted to be holed out on the city outskirts and in neighbouring districts and peddle the drug using new techniques.

They are now resorting to new techniques and recruiting people who often do not know that they are in fact ferrying the deadly pills to the users, said sources at the Department of Narcotics Control.

Fearing arrest, more than a hundred sellers have spread to Savar, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Narsingdi districts.

Sources said due to less availability, each tablet is now selling at

Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,500. Before the recent hauls, they would sell at Tk 250-300.

Meanwhile, Amin Huda and Ahsanul Haque Hasan who were arrested in the early hours Thursday for possession of a huge store of Yaba, foreign liquor, illegal currency and VoIP equipment were handed over to Gulshan Police Station last night.

A total of four cases have been filed against them.

In another drive, an intelligence team of narcotics department yesterday seized 25 Yaba tablets and arrested two people in Joydevpur.

The arrestees--Shafayat Uddin Manik and Monir Hossain--have admitted to being involved in

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## ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা (ডিআইটিএফ)-২০০৮

স্থান : শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

মেলায় মেয়াদকাল : ০১ জানুয়ারী থেকে ৩১ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮

শুভ উদ্বোধন ০১ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮ সকাল ১১টা



আগ্রহী দেশী ও বিদেশী সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে মেলায় অংশগ্রহণের বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য রণ্ডানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোতে যোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

আগামী ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০০৭ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল বরাদ্দ সংক্রান্ত আবেদন ফরম বিতরণ ও গ্রহণ করা হবে।

তথ্য সংক্রান্ত যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা  
রণ্ডানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো  
টিসিবি ভবন, (৫ম তলা) ১, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫  
ফোন : পিএবিএক্স- ৮১৫১৫০২, ৯১৪৪৮২১,  
৯১২৮৩৭৭, ৮১১২৪২৭-১১৪  
ফ্যাক্স : ৮৮৮-০২-৯১১৯৫৩১  
E-mail : info@epb.gov.bd, Website : www.epb.gov.bd

ডিআইটিএফ ২০০৮ সচিবালয়  
টেলিফোন : ৮১৫০৩৭০